Participation in Management."

During 1996-97 Central Board for Workers Education conducted six training courses (one at National level and five at Regional level). During 1997-98, Central Board for Workers Education conducted 47 training courses (one at National level and 46 at Regional level). During 1998-99, Central Board for Workers Education will conduct 26 training courses (Two at National level and 24 at Regional level).

Agricultural Labour in the Country

79. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of agricultural labour in the country; and

(b) when will Government bring a comprehensive Bill in Parliament to fix minimum wages and other amenities for these workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The number of agricultural workers in the country according to 1991 census is 74,597, 744 (excluding Jammu and & Kashmir).

(b) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 which provides for fixation and revision of minimum wages is also applicable to agricultural workers. Further, a proposal for enactment of a comprehensive Central legislation for agricultural workers is under active consideration of the Government in consultation with other Minister/Department.

It would be difficult at this stage to indicate the exact duration this process may take.

Unemployment in Orissa

80. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing unemployment in the undivided KBK (Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi) districts in Orissa;

(b) whether in large scale migration is taken place due to that reason;

(c) whether Government propose to provide security to the people migrating to other States from the KBK districts in search of jobs; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Payment of wages to Plantation Workers

81. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the actual wages being paid to plantation workers are far below the minimum wages;

(a) whether there are disparities in actual wages in different sectors of plantation workers from State to State; and

(c) whether Government propose to constitute a Wage Board for plantation workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Sir, under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, State Governments are the appropriate Government for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages for different sectors of plantation workers. Various State Governments have, therefore, fixed minimum wage for plantation workers by taking into account of prevailing socio-economic factor which influence real wages in the region. Such Minimum Wages fixed for the plantation workers differ from State to State. However, disparities in minimum wages between different states of the same region are discussed in the Regional Labour Ministers' Conferences and necessary remedial steps are taken.

Whenever violation of these provisions is noticed, enforcement machinery of the concerned State takes appropriate action against the defaulter under relevant law.

(c) At present Government does not have a proposal to constitute Wage Board for plantation workers.

Locking up of Labour Contribution in Sick Units

82. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over Rs. 500

crore of labour contribution is locked up in sick industrial units, including PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the workers affected;

(c) what fresh initiatives have been taken/ proposed to be taken to release the funds within definite time frame to the workers of sick/ closed industrial units alongwith the present status of the problem; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to safeguard the interests of workers in the process of liberalisation and globalisation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The Government does not have information on amount of labour contribution locked up in the sick industrial units in each state. However, so far as Employees State Insurance Corporation is concerned an amount of Rs. 138.55 crores consisting of employers as well as employees contribution was locked up in sick industrial units including PSUs as on 31.3.98. State-wise details of this amount is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). Benefit available under the ESI Act are provided to the employers of sick industrial units irrespective of the fact whether the employer has defaulted in payment of contribution to the Corporation or not. So far as Provident Fund and allied dues are concerned an amount of Rs.463.97 crores was outstanding as on 31.3.98. State-wise details for Central Public Sector are given in the Statement-II. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The Government has held inter-ministerial consultations to evolve a strategy for payment of statutory dues of workers in CPSUs within a given a time frame. The provision made in the budget for payment of dues of workers in sick PSUs has been considerably enhanced during the current financial year. The National Renewal Fund has been established to protect the interest of workers likely to be affected as a result of liberalisation and globalisation. The fund provides a social safety net for labour in the form of compensation to workers affected by restructuring or closure. It also provides assistance to cover the cost of retraining and redeployment of employees arising as a result of modernisation, technological upgradation and industrial restructuring.

Statement-I

State-wise arrears of ESI dues locked up in Sick Industrial Units as on 31.03.98

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the State	Amount
1. Andhra Pradesh	13.46
2. Assam	0.41
3. Bihar	4.38
4. Delhi	0.34
5. Gujarat	12.10
6. Haryana	2.02
7. Karnataka	2.89
8. Kerala	0.40
9. Madhya Pradesh	12.79
10. Maharashtra	
(i) Mumbai Area	8.78
(ii) Nagpur Area	2.70
(iii) Pune Area	3.39
11. Goa	—
12. Orissa	1.64
13. Punjab (Including J&K, H.P. and U.T. of Chandigarh)	0.49
14. Rajasthan	1.22
15. Tamil Nadu	0.33
(i) Pondicherry	0.06
(ii) Coimbatore	0.73
(iii) Madurai	0.04
18. Uttar Pradesh	13.04
19. West Bengal	57.34
TOTAL:	138.55

Statement-II

State-wise details of the Provident Fund and allied dues in respect of Central Public Sector Undertakings

Name of the Region	No. of Establishment	Number of employees	Amount in Default (Rs. cr)
Andhra Pradesh	0.3	4437	5.87
Bihar	01	586	1.28
Delhi	00	00	00
Gujarat	11	16696	9.73
Haryana	01	7910	9.64

Karnataka	03	12398	2.50
Kerala	02	1478	0.11
Madhya Pradesh	10	9919	12.37
Maharashtra	28	34822	18.61
Orissa	01	715	0.65
Punjab	27	5753	6.66
Rajasthan	00	00	00
Tamil Nadu	08	4620	0.85
Uttar Pradesh	16	21586	28.94
W. Bengal	26	70281	64.37
North Eastern Region	01	315	0.36
TOTAL	138	191516	161.94

NOTES: This excludes defaults in the case of establishments which are not CPSUs and where the amount of default is less than Rupees one lakh.

Demands for increase in Salary STC. from DUJ

83. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of demands received from Delhi Union of Journalists (DUJ) for increase in salary and other perks;

(b) whether those demands have since been examined by the Wage Board for Journalists and a report submitted thereon, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if the report has not been received as yet, by when it is likely to be received and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Delhi Union of Journalists have made submissions to the Wage Boards in their memorandum dated 24.8.98 regarding revised scales of wages and allowances besides other demands relating to promotion, medical scheme, retirement age and pension etc. At present in the Wage Boards for Journalists and Non-Journalist newspaper and news-agency employees, the work of oral hearings is going on.

(c) No time frame was fixed for the submission of the report of Wage Boards at the time of constitution. However, the Chairman, Wage Boards has been requested to submit the report by December, 1998.

Early Disbursement of PF dues

84. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees retiring from private companies in Delhi are made to run from one office to another to get their provident fund dues and family pension;

(b) what is the procedure required to be followed in this regard;

(c) whether this plethora of forms, results in harassment of the employees by the P.F. authorities; and

(d) the steps being taken to simplify the procedure including fixation of accountability and action against P.F. officials responsible for the delay in disbursement of P.F. dues?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) There are three schemes namely the EPF scheme, the EDLI scheme and the Employees Pension Scheme framed under the Employees Provident Funds and Misc. Provisions Act, 1952. The beneficiaries claiming benefits under these schemes are required to submit their claims in the prescribed form to the commissioner through the employer of the member. The commissioner is required to settle the claims, which are complete in all respects, within 30 days from the date of receipt of claim in the office. The claim forms are self-contained and easily intelligible. However, in order to help members in filling the forms facilitation centres have been opened in all the offices of the EPFO. A massive computerisation programme has been launched for providing prompt and speedy service to the subscribers. The Public Grievance and vigilance machineries have also been activated to monitor settlement of P.F. claims.

Consolidation of PF accounts

85. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the responsibility of the Provident Fund authorities to ensure that the